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MIC BRIEFING

21 December 1954

POLITICAL CRISIS IN GREECE

Anti-American rioting in all major cities of Greece, protesting US stand on Cyprus issue, is new evidence growing disintegration Premier Papagos' Rally government.

- A. We inclined to be complacent about Papagos, who pro-US.
- B. Actually, Papagos regime being steadily weakened by:
  - A. Defections major political figures from his party.
  - B. Defeat of Rally-linked candidates in six of seven major cities at last month's municipal elections.
  - C. Continued absence full support Frederika Palace now reported actively encouraging some opposition moderates.
- III. Disintegration of Rally would not affect Greece's basic pro-Western orientation.  
However:

*PAUL*  
*OVER*

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~~Return to pre-Papagos condition--~~

~~splintered parties--would mean further  
instability.~~

B. Greece, now considered Western asset,  
would become less reliable partner.

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